

Docket No. 2000P13026WOUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jerg, Helmut

Application Number: Filed concurrently herewith

Filing Date: Filed concurrently herewith

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Title: FILTER

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the filing fee.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-7 and add new claims 8-19, as follows:

8. (New) A filter, comprising:

a filter body having a plurality of filter openings for filtering a medium flowing through said openings; and each of said openings having a passage cross-section which varies automatically in response to a characteristic inherent to said medium flowing through said openings.

9. (New) The filter according to claim 8, including said filter openings being screened or covered by elements whose state relative to said filter openings vary under the influence of the heat of said medium flowing through said openings.

10. (New) The filter according to claim 9, including said elements are punched out of said filter body in the shape of tongues positioned in said filter openings.

11. (New) The filter according to claim 10, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a shape memory alloy material.

12. (New) The filter according to claim 10, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a bimetal material.

13. (New) The filter according to claim 8, including said filter openings being screened or covered by flap-like elements, said flap-like elements having a first substantially covering position by a force effect of said medium flowing through said openings and can be adjusted to a second increased passage opening by an increased flow rate of said medium flowing through said openings.

14. (New) A dishwashing machine, the machine including a water medium utilized in the machine, comprising:

a filter for filtering the water medium in said machine;

said filter including a filter body having a plurality of filter openings for filtering the medium flowing through said openings; and

each of said openings having a passage cross-section which varies automatically in response to a characteristic inherent to said medium flowing through said openings.

15. (New) The dishwashing machine according to claim 14, including said filter openings being screened or covered by elements whose state relative to said filter openings vary under the influence of the heat of said medium flowing through said openings.

16. (New) The dishwashing machine according to claim 15, including said elements are punched out of said filter body in the shape of tongues positioned in said filter openings.

17. (New) The dishwashing machine according to claim 16, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a shape memory alloy material.

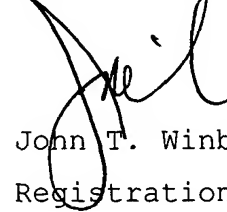
18. (New) The dishwashing machine according to claim 16, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a bimetal material.

19. (New) The dishwashing machine according to claim 14, including said filter openings being screened or covered by flap-like elements, said flap-like elements having a first substantially covering position by a force effect of said medium flowing through said openings and can be adjusted to a second increased passage opening by an increased flow rate of said medium flowing through said openings.

REMARKS

The new claims are added to conform to US practice and to eliminate multiple dependent claims. The amendment does not add any new matter, but is merely formal in nature to place the application into better form for examination. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Winburn', is written over the printed name.

John T. Winburn

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